

IN THE CLAIMS

1. – 7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A composition comprising a cut potato piece and coating, said coating comprising a peptide-polysaccharide complex comprising a peptide and a polysaccharide, wherein said peptide is zein, and wherein said peptide is present in an amount of 2-90% by weight of the dry weight of the total peptide-polysaccharide complex and the polysaccharide is present in an amount of 10-98% by weight of the dry weight of the peptide-polysaccharide complex, wherein said cut potato piece can grow into a potato plant.

9. (ORIGINAL) The composition of claim 8, wherein the peptide is present in an amount of 2-30% by weight of the dry weight of the peptide polysaccharide complex and the polysaccharide is present in an amount of 70-98% by weight of the dry weight of the peptide-polysaccharide complex.

10. – 15. (CANCELLED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composition of claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is a cellulosic derivative.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The composition of claim 16, wherein the cellulosic derivative is selected from a ~~group consisting~~ group consisting of carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methycellulose, and microcrystalline cellulose.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composition of claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is starch or a starch derivative.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composition of claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is pectin.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The composition of claim 8, wherein the polysaccharide is derived from an exudates gum polysaccharide.